

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives more accurate and detailed information of matters affecting labor, covering the industries, individuals, and national affairs, and is the only source of information of interest to the trade union movement.

LABOR WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1942

GREENE KEATY, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. 32, NO. 40

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT

For distinguished service rendered in behalf of the National War Savings Program this ribbon is awarded to

R. J. J. Wilbur, Junior Service

Given under my hand and seal

Robert Day 1942

Secretary of the Treasury

The above testimonial to the service rendered by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service in behalf of the War Bond campaign has just been received from the office of Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Robert H. Taft. Similar certificates are being issued to labor papers throughout the country which have cooperated fully in this patriotic drive.

AFL Council Says War Problems Demand All of Labor's Energies

Toronto, Can.—The American labor movement must concentrate all its energies and resources upon war problems and war needs and realize that, with the very life of the nation itself in peril, labor's normal peacetime objectives must be laid aside, the Executive Council of the sixty-second annual convention of the American Federation of Labor as the first wartime AFL convocation since the St. Paul convocation of 1918 got under way at the Royal York Hotel here.

"Only fundamental should have consideration and action at the present time," the council's report declared. "Understandings and objectives important for human welfare cannot be advanced when our national institutions themselves are in peril. We therefore are holding many such commitments in reserve until the war is won."

Pointing out that the issues involved in the war are "the very heart of democratic institutions and the democratic way of life," the Executive Council said the American Federation of Labor stands squarely behind the Federal Government in its prosecution of the fight against the Axis.

"The months immediately ahead will bring sacrifices and hardships," the report said, "but we must be prepared to go through with determination and conviction. Freedom is at stake. The issue is worth what we have in material substance as well as personal sacrifice. We call upon all wage-earners to prepare to stay in the battle till victory is won."

President Roosevelt was urged to establish an over-all Board of Economic and Military Strategy. Such an agency should be charged with the responsibility of "planning for resources to be mobilized for war, for the economic needs of the civilian population, for the conservation of human welfare and for reconversion to peace," the Executive Council proposed.

Overall planning would be valuable as a guide to the operating war agencies and would help to bring about coordination of the activities of these agencies, the council asserted.

In its report, which covers almost 250 printed pages, the council dealt with a multitude of subjects of vital importance to the millions of American wage-earners—those in war industry, those still in civilian industry and those who have left their regular employment and gone into the armed services. Subjects covered in the voluminous report included production, mobilization, manpower distribution, wage stabilization, social legislation, housing, legislation, relations with the labor movements of Latin America and Europe, political problems and reports of other topics.

The Executive Council contained criticism of the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration. The failure of these agencies to give organized labor adequate representation in the formulation of policy drew the council's fire.

As regards the WPB, the council voiced some satisfaction at the fact that "organized labor has been accorded a degree of representation and the hope was expressed that 'this constructive development may be carried further.'"

"Opportunity for joint consideration of programs has not yet gone far enough," the council declared.

The OPA was castigated for its cavalier treatment of organized labor. "From its inception until now," the report said, "the administration has dealt with vital questions of economic policy without any labor consultation, labor participation or labor representation, the Executive Council said.

"As a result of a concerted drive for labor representation made by the American Federation of Labor in May a Labor Policy Committee was formed within the OPA and began its work on June 22. The committee consisted of three representatives each of the American Federation of Labor, national unions and the CIO."

"Shortly before the Labor Policy Committee was formed a Labor Office was established on the staff of OPA. Characteristic of the OPA attitude was the fact that the posts of the director, assistant director and principal staff members of the Labor Office were filled by representatives of the labor movement who were not members of the labor movement."

One of the most significant sections of the Executive Council's report was that headed "Peace Objectives." In this portion of the report the council stated that the defeat of the Axis will not end the responsibility of the United States which, as "the victor in the world war," will have to see to it that order must be restored.

"And it must be the order for which we are now fighting," the Council emphasized.

The American Federation of Labor and the labor movements of other allied nations will oppose programs that run over the defeated Axis nations, the report said.

"From the first, citizens must be in charge of provisional governments, and from the first there must be participation of responsible, representative local persons in decisions of economic policy," the report said.

Labor should have representation in the delegations of all nations at the peace conference, the Executive Council said, since labor is "the largest international group in all the world."

Assailing proposals to isolate countries, to set up buffer states and to allow powers of the victors to divide up the world, the council said that a constructive five-point program for writing a peace that can reasonably be expected to endure. The program was as follows:

(1) The governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. The kind of government that is to be set up must be decided by the people of the nation directly or through the institutions of the United States, as the case may be, and the nation directly or through the institutions of the United States, as the case may be.

(2) Every political, economic and social institution must serve the freedom and the welfare of human beings. The institution must serve the freedom and the welfare of human beings. The institution must serve the freedom and the welfare of human beings.

Green Tells Business Heads Labor Will Beat All Goals, Green Tells Convention; Declares Workers are Doing Most to Help in War; Food Orders Wages and Food Prices Stabilized

President Establishes Economic Stabilization Board With Justice Byrnes as Director to Serve With War Labor Board

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt issued an Executive Order establishing for the first time in American nation-wide stabilization of wages, salaries and food prices.

The President appointed Supreme Court Justice James F. Byrnes to serve as the nation's economic director, which will be advised by a new Economic Stabilization Board, which will include representatives of labor and management as well as key Government officials.

"The National War Labor Board was given full authority by the President to pass upon all matters involving wages. The Board will act not only in disputes, but will have authority to review all wage contracts entered into voluntarily by management and labor."

"The WLB shall not approve any increase in the wage rates prevailing on Sept. 15, 1942, unless such increase is necessary to correct maladjustments or inequalities, to eliminate standards of living, to correct gross inequities, or to aid in the effective prosecution of the war."

The President declared that the prices of 90 per cent of the nation's food bill would be stabilized by his action in putting ceilings on the cost of farm prices.

Interviewed at the AFL convention in Toronto, President William Green declared the AFL convention in Toronto will cooperate fully with the stabilization program.

He pointed out that the President had discussed the stabilization program in advance with representatives of the AFL and CIO and had incorporated many of their suggestions in his plan.

"We interpret this as a wage stabilization program, rather than wage freezing," Mr. Green emphasized.

He said that collective bargaining has been preserved and that provision is made for the correction of inequities and the amelioration of substantial portions of the economic situation.

"We are not going to eliminate substantial portions of the economic situation, but we are going to stabilize the situation, and we are going to stabilize the situation, and we are going to stabilize the situation."

1. No increase in wages shall be granted as a result of any agreement, collective bargaining, conciliation, arbitration, or otherwise, and no decrease in wages rates, shall be authorized unless such increase or decrease shall have been filed with the National War Labor Board, and the National War Labor Board has approved such increase or decrease.

2. The National War Labor Board shall not approve any increase in the wage rates prevailing on Sept. 15, 1942, unless such increase is necessary to correct gross inequities, or to aid in the effective prosecution of the war.

3. The National War Labor Board shall, by general regulation, make provision for the correction of inequities and the amelioration of substantial portions of the economic situation.

4. No increase in salaries now in excess of \$5,000 per year (except in case of officers and executives) shall be granted unless otherwise determined by the Director.

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Green Tells Business Heads To Bury the Hatchet For Duration

Toronto, Can.—Canada's leading business men and public officials gave AFL President Green a rousing reception when he told a luncheon gathering at the Empire Club of Canada that he was ready and willing to join hands with industry for the winning of the war.

"Management and labor standing together," Mr. Green said, "have much to give to the nation. The success of our effort depends very largely on their services. If we fail in the challenge, we don't deserve any better fate than that which awaits Hitler's merciless hordes."

"If we succeed in our efforts, the world will always remember and freely acknowledge what we have done for our freedom and are entitled to join in the joy. Faced with these alternatives, there are no doubts in my mind how management and labor will respond."

As the representative of six million American war production workers, I heartily give my solemn pledge that labor will meet management more than half way.

"We are ready to work with you and serve with you and sacrifice with you, come what may, for democracy's sake, and for the sake of the world."

Mr. Green told the large gathering of businessmen that the AFL and CIO have been meeting together with representatives of the National War Labor Board and the National War Production Board in Washington to devise ways and means to stabilize the war effort.

On their own initiative can take action to aid the successful prosecution of the war and increase our production.

"It is too early to predict how much can be accomplished and in what particular direction we will get first," Mr. Green said.

"However, I have to be constructive, results from these conferences. In fact, they have been constructive, results from these conferences. In fact, they have been constructive, results from these conferences."

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AFL President Condemns Pessimists, Hails War Production Achievements and Calls For Labor Unity in Keynote Address

Toronto, Can.—President William Green set the keynote for the 62nd annual convention of the American Federation of Labor with a ringing pledge that the six million AFL members will exceed America's war production goal before the end of the year.

The 600 delegates from all parts of the United States and Canada dashed the patriotic fervor of Mr. Green's declaration with resounding cheers.

Mr. Green severely castigated public officials who speak slightly of labor's production achievements, and who say America is losing the war. He pointed out that President Roosevelt rebuked them on his return from a cross-country war inspection tour.

Referring to the President's announcement that the rate of production now is already up to 95 percent of the figure he set last January, Mr. Green declared:

"I assure him, as the representative of 6,000,000 workers that before the end of this year all the standards he set will be excelled by workers of America."

In an eloquent call for all out support of our armed forces now fighting the enemy on battle fronts across the seas, Mr. Green said:

"Let us cheer these abroad with the sound of our marching feet with the realization that we are winning the battle of production at home, by sending them countless ships laden with munitions and by filling the heavens with our guns and bombers."

"Then, after victory has been won, let us call upon the civilized world to demand that Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito pay the penalty for their crimes, and let us demand that the women and children of the world, just as they have murdered millions of innocent men, women and children."

The delegates applauded vigorously when Mr. Green insisted that labor must fully share in the nation's war production program. He urged that the free nations of the world take cognizance of the delegates and assure them of Canada's full support in the war effort.

Mr. Green recalled the actions of past conventions as far back as 1880, in applying economic boycotts against Nazi Germany and denouncing the discrimination and war in Italy. He said, "We followed up in 1937 with a boycott against Japan and an urgent call upon the government to prohibit trade of war materials."

"It is too early to predict how much can be accomplished and in what particular direction we will get first," Mr. Green said.

"However, I have to be constructive, results from these conferences. In fact, they have been constructive, results from these conferences. In fact, they have been constructive, results from these conferences."

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